

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
STEVEN C. BRUESS  
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

**PCT**

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | Date of mailing<br>(day/month/year) <b>10 MAY 2007</b>                |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br><b>40062.214WO01</b>   |  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b><br>See paragraph 2 below                    |
| International application No.<br><b>PCT/US04/24342</b>  | International filing date (day/month/year)<br><b>29 July 2004 (29.07.2004)</b> | Priority date (day/month/year)<br><b>23 October 2003 (23.10.2003)</b> |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC<br><b>IPC: H04L 9/00( 2006.01);G06F 15/16( 2006.01)<br/>USPC: 709/223;713/158,170</b> |  |   |
| Applicant<br><b>MICROSOFT CORPORATION</b>   |  |   |

**1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:**

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

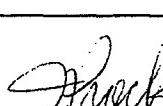
**2. FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

**3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.**

|  |                                    |   |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US<br>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US<br>Commissioner for Patents<br>P.O. Box 1450<br>Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450<br>Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201 | Date of completion of this opinion | Authorized officer<br>William Vaughn<br><br>Telephone No. 571-272-2100 |
|--|------------------------------------|---|

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US04/24342

**Box No. I Basis of this opinion**

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:  
 the international application in the language in which it was filed  
 a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
 a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
 on paper  
 in electronic form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
 contained in the international application as filed.  
 filed together with the international application in electronic form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/US04/24342

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

|                               |                    |     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims <u>1-38</u> | YES |
|                               | Claims <u>NONE</u> | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims <u>1-38</u> | YES |
|                               | Claims <u>NONE</u> | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims <u>1-38</u> | YES |
|                               | Claims <u>NONE</u> | NO  |

**2. Citations and explanations:**

Claims 1-25 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a system for identifying principals within a computing environment, the system comprising: a plurality of principal objects, wherein each principal object corresponds to a specific principal authenticated to perform a digital action within the computing environment and wherein each principal object is operable for use by a computer process within the computing environment to associate a plurality of resource objects with the specific principal corresponding to the principal object; and a plurality of identity claims, wherein each identity claim uniquely identifies the specific principal corresponding to each specific principal object, and wherein at least one of the plurality of principal objects comprises two or more identity claims each uniquely identifying the specific principal corresponding to the at least one principal object.

No negative opinion has bee given because the search report relies on "P" references.